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FLOOR DEBATE

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situation. I can't find a figure in the budget, but I believe it's 38 percent of state aid to counties has now been cut. That's 38 percent cut. We're not talking about 38 percent of a proposed increase. That's a real cut, 38 percent, and this is going to be on top of it. When times turn better, granted, if we're down here this...if I'm down here, try and put this back in. But I want to make the point that counties and cities are taking tremendous hits on this proposed budget. This is going to add to it. And I...only reason I'll vote for it is because I realize that we're in such dire straits we have to. But I hope that other political subdivisions out there are listening because we haven't done anything like this to K-12 school districts, not even close. So before they scream and holler too loud, I'm going to point to the fact that the counties and municipalities have taken some 30-40 percent hits. So I would return the rest of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Landis, there are no further lights on. You're recognized to close on the committee amendments to LB 622.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. This just represents another one of the ugly, unpleasant choices that we have made or have yet to make in this session. My guess is the counties could make good use of this money. They need this money. It does not exist. Or if it does exist, it comes out of some other program, and for many of you I'm sure that you can find a program that needs to lose this money, but it's an aid program that we invented as a counterweight for some very needed jail expenses. And while it was a political sop at a time when we had lots of money, there is no longer the time to do a political sop. I would suggest that you adopt the Revenue Committee, but we will live with the results either way. And if it doesn't get 25 votes, we'll need to go find another 9 million bucks in the budget someplace. Ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. You've heard the closing on AM0854, the committee amendments to LB 622. The question before the body is, shall those amendments be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The motion before the body